(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to set up the centres for Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Cell all over the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such centres;

(c) the amount likely to be spent by Government for setting up of these centres; and

(d) by when all the centres for Vigilance Monitoring Cell would be opened all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Sir, Vigilance Telecom Monitoring (VTM) Cells are already operational at four places i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad. These Cells have been set up using the existing infrastructure and staff. The operational expenditure per VTM Cell is approximately Rs. 22 lacs per annum at present opening of additional VTM Cells is contingent upon the experience of the existing VTM Cells.

Expansion plan of mobile service in Chhattisgarh

†1142. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BSNL mobile connections in Chhattisgarh as on 30th June, 2005;

(b) whether this mobile service has been introduced in all the districts and tehsil-headquarters of Chhattisgarh;

(c) the expansion plan of this mobile service in Chhattisgarh;

(d) whether mobile connection of BSNL is available on demand in Chhattisgarh; and

(e) if not, by when such situation would prevail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of mobile connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as on 30.06.2005 are 83028 lines.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has so far provided Cellular Mobile Services covering all the 16 District Headquarters and 41 Tehsil Headquarters (out of 97) of Chhattisgarh.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has recently ordered equipment for expansion of cellular network by 1.5 lakh lines in Chhattisgarh and the capacities are expected progressively from December, 2005 onwards.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) BSNL's cellular mobile connections are likely to be available on demand in Chhattisgarh by the end of current financial year.

Microwave repeater stations

1143. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has around 4000 microwave repeater stations all over the country, particularly in far-flung areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that these assets became unproductive due to obsolescence technology;

(c) if so, whether these assets can be reactivated for providing umbrella coverage of upto 50 kms. for microwave and 30 kms. for cellular; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken to reproductivise these assets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The analogue microwave equipments have reached the stage of obsolescence, but digital microwave equipments have not reached the stage of obsolescence. Further, other assets like building, tower, etc. are being utilised for other services as well as Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Cellular Mobile.

(c) and (d) Microwave equipments are used for point-to-point connectivity and where feasible such digital equipments are being utilized to meet the media requirement for cellular mobile connections/Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems.

Control of internet

1144. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: